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## NEWS RELEASE

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December 20, 2002

### **McAllen Sector Agents Seize 1,627 pounds of Marijuana**

*Seizures Keep Agents Busy*

**McALLEN, Texas** – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza announces that Border Patrol Agents of the McAllen Sector seized 1,627 pounds of marijuana in six separate seizures valued at \$1,351,200.00.

The first seizure occurred Dec. 19, at 3:30 a.m. As Agents from the McAllen Station responded to traffic in the San Juan, Texas, area, they discovered foot-sign of three to four subjects, leading away from river area. As the Agents walked along the canal they heard brush breaking in the immediate area. After a search, the Agents discovered eight black plastic sacks containing marijuana. The search proved negative for any suspects. The black plastic bags contained 96 bundles of marijuana weighing 678 pounds and valued at \$542,400.00. No arrests were made during this seizure. The narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The second seizure occurred Dec. 19, at approximately 12:00 p.m. near the Willacy Pump House. McAllen Station Agents working along the Rio Grande River observed foot sign of about four to five subjects walking upriver. As the Agents followed the sign they encountered five subjects holding a large trash bag. The subjects then dropped the bag, jumped in the river and swam back to Mexico. An immediate search of the area resulted in the recovery of five large trash bags, all containing marijuana. The Agents observed a large trash bag floating in the river and contacted their boat patrol. The Boat Patrol Agents recovered the floating bag that contained marijuana. The contraband weighed a total of 463 pounds, valued at \$370,960.00. No arrests were made during this seizure. The marijuana was turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The third seizure was made Dec. 19, at 4:00 p.m. by Fort Brown Station Agents located in Brownsville, Texas. While patrolling the river area, Agents observed three male subjects standing along the riverbank on the U.S. side. As the Agents approached the individuals, they jumped in the river and absconded into Mexico. In searching the area, Agents recovered 13 large bundles of marijuana weighing 431 pounds, valued at \$344,800.00. The narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration. No arrests were made during this seizure.

December 19, the Kingsville and Falfurrias Border Patrol stations were instrumental in three other seizures. They amounted to 55 pounds of marijuana valued at \$44,000.00.

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